MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 APRIL 1981

AWACS to Saudi Arabia

Israeli Reaction--A government press office release, carried by ITIM, expressed Israel's "deep regret and unreserved opposition" to the U.S. administration's decision to supply advanced arms and AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia. Noting that Saudi Arabia rejects the Camp David agreements and peace with and recognition of Israel, the statement said the supply of sophisticated offensive arms to the Saudis will undermine peace in the region and constitute a grave danger to Israel's security. IDF radio reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin reiterated Israel's opposition to the arms deal during a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis. According to Jerusalem radio, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel will do everything possible to prevent the deal from going through. Jerusalem television reported that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres also criticized the planned sale as a danger to the peace process and to regional security. He added that those who think the electoral period in Israel may be exploited for the purposes of the sale are deluding themselves. According to Jerusalem radio the Alignment faction has collected the signatures of enough Knesset members to convene a special Knesset session next week at which the planned sale will be discussed.

Saudi Comment--In a commentary on the U.S. administration's decision on the arms sale, Riyadh radio said that such favorable responses to Saudi requests for arms stem from an awareness that Saudi Arabia plays an important role in shaping world events. The country's friends realize, it said, that the best way to strengthen Saudi self-defense is to strengthen its self-reliance, rather than by providing "outside support," which may have harmful psychological effects that serve no one. Citing Defense Minister Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the commentary stressed that Saudi Arabia is helping maintain regional and international stability and does not intend to attack others or to use its military or economic capabilities to harm or pressure anyone.

Gulf Affairs

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid has told British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that the UAE will buy an unspecified number of British Hawk trainer aircraft, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported. According to the GULF NEWS AGENCY, Thatcher held talks with Shaykh Khalifah and other UAE officials during her visit to Abu Dhabi. Later QNA reports said that after visiting Dubayy Thatcher arrived in Muscat for talks with Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

Lebanon

Military Situation--According to reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios, violent clashes resumed in Beirut on 22 April, continuing until President Ilyas Sarkis issued a cease-fire order early in the evening. Beirut radio said that intermittent firing continued after the cease-fire order was issued but that the city was calm by 23 April. In the south Israeli and Christian militia forces continued shelling throughout the night of 21-22 April, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported. Beirut radio said the shelling resumed for more than 2 hours the next morning, hitting An-Nabatiyah and several villages. The radio later said Yatir came under artillery fire after a UNIFIL contingent there had opened fire on an Israeli commando unit trying to cross the border, forcing it to withdraw. Artillery exchanges between Marj 'Uyun and An-Nabatiyah continued at night, Voice of Lebanon reported. According to Beirut radio, Israeli gunboats shelled the port of Tyre on 23 April. Jerusalem radio said IDF forces sank "terrorist" vessels off the coast of Tyre and Sidon during the night. Voice of Lebanon radio continued to report Syrian shelling of residential areas of Zahlah. It also claimed that Syrian troops in the Zahlah area are being reinforced.

Other Developments--Citing Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich, Jerusalem radio reported that over the last few days a senior Israeli ministerial team headed by Prime Minister Begin has decided that Israel should help the southern Lebanese Christians to "help themselves" but should not allow itself to become involved in a war with Syria for their sake. The Voice of Hope radio reported that southern Lebanese Christian militia leader Maj Sa'd Haddad, who was hospitalized in Haifa several days ago, has left the hospital and will meet with Prime Minister Begin to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon. According to the Voice of Palestine, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat met with UNIFIL Commander Gen William Callaghan to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon and relations between the Palestinian joint forces and UNIFIL. The PLO General Mobilization Commission issued a statement broadcast by the Voice of Palestine radio announcing a general mobilization law to defend the Palestinian revolution against the "imperialist-Zionist" scheme to liquidate it in Lebanon. The law calls on all Palestinian males aged 16 to 49, with certain specified exceptions, to report to Palestine Liberation Army centers in Lebanon between 1 May and 30 June.

Syria-Iraq

Citing the Syrian daily AL-BA'TH, SANA reported that Maj Gen Isma'il Tayih an-Nu'aymi, commander of the Iraqi Armed Forces along the front with Iran, was executed after a "violent disagreement" with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The paper also alleged that several other Iraqi military commanders have been executed for refusing to obey orders and that over the past 2 months more than 900 Iraqi citizens have died in a campaign of executions.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi General Command communique, broadcast by Baghdad radio's international service, reported heavy fighting in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region with Iraqi planes strafing Iranian troop concentrations. Tehran radio's English service reported that Iranian forces captured an important strategic height in the western front, killing 300 Iraqis and capturing 380. According to other Tehran radio reports, Iranian antiaircraft fire downed an Iraqi aircraft over Bushehr while an air force fighter shot down an Iraqi MiG near Ahvaz.

Iran

Tehran Explosion--Tehran radio reported that a powerful bomb exploded in a vehicle parked near Niavaran Palace, a former residence of the late shah situation in northern Tehran. Two people were killed and 10 hospitalized as a result of the blast.

Newspapers on Unrest--According to AFP, Iranian newspapers have reported a number of recent disturbances in which Mojahedin-e Khalq supporters clashed with religious fundamentalists. KEYHAN reported that about 40 persons were injured and 20 arrested during extensive clashes in Armol, near the Caspian Sea, while JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said Mojahedin-e Khalq supporters attacked Islamic Republican Party offices in Hamadan, Esfahan and Mashhad.

Three-Man Committee--Tehran radio reported that Mohammad Yazdi, member of the three-man committee investigating disputes among Iran's top officials, announced that the committee upholds the right of the Foreign Affairs Ministry to issue foreign policy statements without clearance from the Supreme Defense Council. Yazdi said any criticism of the recent Foreign Ministry statement attacking Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti is a matter for the Majlis, not the Supreme Defense Council. He also said the press has no right to discuss such matters before they have been referred to the lawful authorities. Yazdi's statement follows previously reported public criticism of the Foreign Ministry statement by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

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KARMAL ADDRESSES RELIGIOUS LEADERS, TEACHERS

LD221748 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] This afternoon, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Revolution Council and prime minister, received members of the DRA Supreme Council of Islamic teachers, ulema and religious leaders at the Gol Khana Hall of the Revolution Council headquarters and conferred with them in a very sincere atmosphere. At the beginning of the visit a few verses from the holy Koran were recited. Prime Minister Karmal then addressed the audience. He said: First, allow me to congratulate and sincerely greet you, Afghan religious leaders and ulema, on the occasion of the opening of the Supreme Council of the religious leaders and ulema of Afghanistan, on behalf of the DRA Revolution Council, government and myself.

Babrak Karmal's speech was warmly welcomed by the audience, and he continued: It is a matter of great pleasure that, for the first time in Afghan history, the Supreme Council of ulema and religious leaders has been formed. Until now we have not had such an Islamic Council in our country. If in the past there were meetings by religious leaders, it was only to (?serve) the political aims of the despotic kings. Babrak Karmal added: We have pledged before our faithful people that we shall tell the truth and what is right. Let our enemies embark on lies and fabrications against us; let the hypocrites say what they like.

The sacred religion of Islam, from its creation in the [word indistinct] of Islam, has been a torch for the prosperity and well-being of all humanity; but it has been clearly witnessed that heretics have abused the sacred religion of Islam in the interest of infidels and the English people.

Citing some examples in relation to the so-called defender of Islam, Babrak Karmal said: President as-Sadat has trampled on the rights of the people of Palestine, and strengthened the Jews of Israel.

Prime Minister Karmal explained the goals of imperialists who want to intensify hostilities in the Islamic countries, and also explained American subversive activities against the religious and progressive revolution of Iran. Babrak Karmal added: Throughout its history in Asia, Afghanistan has always been a true supporter of Islam; when we look at our history, we see that our faithful people were pioneers during the three Afghan-British wars against the colonialists.

Babrak Karmal said the goals of the party, state and the Government of the DRA, which are for the well-being, comfort and prosperity of the Afghan toiling people and for the development and progress of our country, are in accord with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam. This was completely affirmed by our ulema and religious leaders.

Babrak Karmal condemned the aggressions and interferences of imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, Chinese expansionist hegemonism, Pakistani militarism, Arab reactionaries and regional reactionaries against the Afghan national-democratic revolution. He added: those who call themselves the defenders of Islam set fire to mosques and to the holy Koran by their mercenary servants; they mercielellly kill our brothers and sisters, our fathers and children. Is all this terror and murder, looting and plundering admissable in Islam? They kill thousands of our peasants and toilers, our ulemas and religious leaders, in the mosques or beside the mosques, under the slogan of God is great! These groups of rebels break into our people's houses and embark on the savage actions of looting and killing, contrary to the Islamic law of abstinence.

Babrak Karmal added: Islam demands that we treat our neighbors kindly, solve all differences and hostilities peacefully. That is why, and based on this principle, we turned to Pakistan and declared we are ready to sit around a table and discuss all differences, if any, in accordance with the principles of the sharia of Islam, and similarly with Iran, but until now they have shown no readiness.

Babrak Karmal evaluated the role of the religious leaders and ulema in the construction of a progressive and developed society under the broad National Fatherland Front.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that at the end of Babrak Karmal's speech, the resolution drafted by the ulema and religious leaders of Islamic teaching, was read by Dr Sa'id Afghani, president of the Supreme Council and president of the Islamic teachers.

Finally, at the end of this visit, a member of the Supreme Council of Islamic Teaching made a statement on behalf of the others. While expressing gratitude for Babrak Karmal's speech, he pledged that they will accomplish their mission of preaching and teaching the sacred religion of Islam with faith and sincerity.

KARMAL CONGRATULATES GDR'S HONECKER ON REELECTION

LD221008 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Kabul, 21 Apr (BAKHTAR)--A congratulatory telegram was sent to Berlin by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Revolution Council and DRA prime minister on the occasion of re-election of Erich Honecker as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED].

Wishing for the glorious victories of GDR in the light of the useful decisions of the Tenth Congress of the SED under the leadership of the Central Committee of that party, the message expresses the confidence that the development and further consolidation of fraternal and friendly cooperation between the DRA and GDR will serve the interests of the people of both countries as well as of peace and security in the world.

FOREIGN MINISTER DOST ON RELATIONS WITH CSSR, U.S.

AU220827 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 18 Apr 81 pp 1, 7

[Report by CTK Kabul correspondent Peter Frankl: "The Principled Policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan; interview with Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs"]

[Text] Kabul, 17 Apr--Czechoslovakia has longstanding relations with Afghanistan. Since the April Revolution, especially in its second stage, our cooperation has comprehensively developed on a friendly and fraternal foundation, said Shah Mohammad Dost, DRA minister of foreign affairs, in an interview with a CTK correspondent.

Therefore, I believe that the relations between the CSSR and the DRA will continue to strengthen for the benefit of the people of the two countries and in the interest of peace in the world. My upcoming visit to the CSSR will be an opportunity for an exchange of views of interest to both countries. During my first visit to your fatherland I would like to acquaint myself with the work and life of the Czechoslovak people, the Afghan minister of foreign affairs continued.

Minister Dost's visit to Czechoslovakia will take place prior to the third anniversary of the April Revolution. In this connection the minister emphasized that the advent of the new leadership headed by Babrak Karmal is an important milestone in the history of Afghanistan.

In the second stage of the April Revolution, the PDPA and government are implementing in a principled manner the objectives of the national and democratic revolution in accordance with the feelings and the will of the great majority of the Afghan people.

The DRA developed its international relations last year. Of particularly great imporatnce was Babrak Karmal's visit to the USSR last October and the participation of DRA party delegations in the recent CPSU and Czechoslovak Communist Party congresses. A Czechoslovak party and Government delegation attended the celebrations of the second anniversary of the April Revolution, and last July Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, paid an official friendly visit to the DRA. These and other visits have contributed to strengthening mutual relations and to strengthening the DRA's international position.

"Afghanistan is a free, independent country that abides by the UN Charter and the charter of the nonaligned countries. We are striving to maintain peace, develop cooperation with the nonaligned countries and oppose imperialism, neocolonialism, racism and apartheid. One of the fundamental principles of our foreign policy is the endeavor for good relations with neighboring countries. We want to resolve the existing problems in a peaceful manner, through negotiations."

On U.S. President R. Reagan's March statement on the deliveries of arms to Afghan counter-revolutionaries and on the recent visits by representatives of some Western countries to Pakistan, the minister said that the fact that the United States and China, aided by Pakistan and reactionary regimes, are waging an undeclared war against the DRA is long known, however, Reagan--for the first time--formulated that dangerous position as U.S. official policy, Minister Dost said.

AFP: ISLAMIC ALLIANCE SPLITS; NEW REBEL FRONT FORMED

OW222056 Paris AFP in English 2048 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Islamabad, 22 Apr (AFP)--Four major Afghan resistance groups have formed a new front, dissociating themselves from the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan over reported differences with the moderates in the alliance.

According to rebel sources the new front has been formed by the Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, Jamiat-e Eslami of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, and Harakat-e Enqulabi of Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi. While the last three were members of the Islamic Alliance, together with the National Islamic Front of Sayed Ahmad Gailani and the Afghan National Liberation Front of Professor Sebuatollah Mojadedi, the Hezb-e Eslami of Hikmatyar had kept away from the Alliance. Gailani and Mojadedi are considered moderates and are condemned as "Western stooges" by their opponents.

In his frequent trips abroad Mr Gailani visited the United States early this year during which he had meetings with American officials. U.S. President Ronald Reagan's willingness to supply arms to Afghan 'mujahideen' (freedom fighters) against their Soviet and Afghan Marxist-Leninist adversaries had followed that visit. Reports from Peshawar, where the Afghan resistance groups are based, said that Mr Gailani was claiming the allegiance of Khalis and Mohammadi groups.

BANI-SADR CONGRATULATES FALLAHI ON VICTORIES

LD2?2148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Message from President and Commander in Chief Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to acting Chief of Joint Staff Brigadier General Fallahi]

[Text] In His exalted name. Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, at this time I express my high morale and great desire to see the expulsion of the aggressive forces in (?victorious) operations. The inspection of the fronts of Susangerd, Reqabiyeh and Dezful has made everybody cherish hope and satisfaction.

1. Cooperation and coordination exist to a high extent among the armed forces, [word indistinct] army and the revolution guards corps, tribal and nontribal mobilization. The victory achieved in the Shush region was a result of sincere and brotherly cooperation between the army and the corps. This cooperation, which has been gained through experience, patience and steadfastness, must be strengthened more than ever.

2. Our continual victories and the victory achieved by our armed forces in the province of Kermanshah today, Wednesday, 22 April, God willing, are the beginning of other steady victories. According to reports, our forces today took about 400 prisoners, killed about 300 of the aggressors and regained important positions from the enemy. It is appropriate that you convey my satisfaction and gratitude to all the commanders, officers, NCO's, privates, the officials and personnel of the guards corps and the irregular operations.

I wish greater victories for the armed forces from Almighty God.

[Signed] Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, 22 April 1981

BANI-SADR VISITS TROOPS ON KARKHEH KUR FRONT

LD221938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] According to PARS, Mr Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief, visited one of the Karkheh Kur Fronts today. During this inspection, which lasted for more than 4 hours, the commander of the forces based in the region, at the headquarters of the command staff of this front, described the condition of the combatants of the revolution and the mercenary Iraqi forces. He reported to the commander in chief the details of the measures and operations carried out by the brave personnel of the armed forces, who a few days ago, in cooperation with the revolution guards corps, managed to deal heavy blows to Saddam's mercenaries.

Mr Bani-Sadr then crossed the Karkheh Kur River by boat and inspected the trenches and positions of the personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the armed forces. He spoke to the revolution guards, officers, NCO's and privates, and praised their efforts and endeavors. He asked them to continue their coordination and cooperation aimed at expelling Saddam's mercenaries from our homeland's territory.

Afterward, the commander in chief went to the front line, about 2 km from the enemy forces, and inspected the burned tanks left behind by the army of the mercenary Iraqi regime, 30 of which were destroyed in an operation carried out a few days ago by our combatants in this region. Mr Bani-Sadr paid tribute to the efforts of the personnel of the armed forces and the mobilization based in this region and asked them for more effort.

According to the same report, the commander in chief this afternoon attended a meeting in a city in Khuzestan which was also attended by the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other military commanders.

He studied and discussed the general situation on the battlefronts and the methods of confrontation of the combatants of the revolution with Saddam's mercenaries.

RAJA'I CHAIRS CABINET, APPOINTS CONSTRUCTION CHIEF

LD221258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, a Cabinet session was held this morning at 0600. The session was chaired by Prime Minister Raja'i.

The new secretary general of the state organization for employment and administration talked about employment and the situation of retired workers and offered some suggestions and outlined some plans.

A decision was made at the session on coordinating the office hours of government organizations with due consideration for the length of the day and the season of the year. On the basis of this decision, government offices will open at 0700 beginning Saturday, 25 April. The Cabinet also approved a 400-million-rial allocation for the Ministry of Industry and Mines to aid inventors. The minister of labor outlined some plans and suggestions regarding the employment headquarters and the problems in some factories. The suggestions and plans were reviewed.

Mr Raja'i appointed Mohammad Shahab-Gonabadi, the minister of housing and urban development, as the official in charge of the development and construction companies of the foundation for the oppressed.

THREE-MAN COMMITTEE EXAMINES VARIOUS ISSUES

LD222230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, following the convening of the meeting of the three-man committee entrusted with resolving disputes, Mr Yazdi, the spokesman of the commission, announced the decisions reached at that meeting as follows:

The discussion by the press of problems which concern certain lawful authorities, prior to referring those issues to the relevant lawful authortiies, is in itself tantamount to a transgression. This includes the matter of Habib Chatti's interview and issues connected with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Second, what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has done is wholly lawful and is the natural right of the government, since the enunciation of Iran's foreign policy, bearing in mind the limits of the powers of the Surpeme Defense Council in accordance with the Constitution, is the natural right of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, as to the source of the news item, which is said to have been the radio of the regime occupying Jerusalem, if one were to pay closer heed, one would see this concerns the Majlis, not the Supreme Defense Council, and the Majlis by rights should ask the government for an explanation.

Mr Yazdi also said: In connection with the statement issued by the people-president coordination office pertaining to the week for investigating the university and high schools crisis, a letter was written to the director of the presidential office. Studies and discussions took place in connection with the infringement by the newspapers since the time when they were issued a reminder. The reaching and adoption of a final decision were then left to the next session.

NABAVI ON ECONOMIC SITUATION, CEMENT SHORTAGE

LD221316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpts] On the basis of a new plan for distribution of cement, prepared and submitted by the university crusade, distribution and use of cement all over the country will be more closely controlled. At the same time cement will be sold to consumers at prices fixed by the government.

According to a Central News Bureau correspondent a seminar was held today in the presence of Mr Behzad Nabavi, the supervisor of the economic mobilization headquarters, in order to prepare the ground for the proper implementation of this plan all over the country.

Commenting on the cement issue, Mr Nabavi said: Our domestic production of cement is less than the demand for its use and because of difficulties that we face in trying to import cement, we have to depend on our domestic production. The level of cement production in the country was about 9 million tons last year; and we have been promised that this will reach 12 million tons this year. The estimated level of use this year is around 14 million tons. Therefore, we must introduce a fair system of rationing and in this way we hope to be able to eliminate the middlemen, who are like satans. Commenting on prices in Iran, Nabavi said: According to Central Bank statistics, the rate of inflation was 20 percent during the first 11 months of last year. The rate being 6.5 percent during the first 6 months and 13.5 percent during the second half of the year 21 March 1980 to 20 February 1981. The main reason for the rise in inflation in the second half of the year was the war.

In connection with the government's price-fixing policy, Nabavi said: We have decided to control distribution of all the basic commodities in order to keep prices fixed. At the same time the government policy is to freeze wages also. Manufacturers tend to increase the prices of their goods several times when we increase wages and as a result the inflation rate rises. Therefore, we want to prevent creation of further difficulties brought about by price rises.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES VOICE, VISION OFFICIALS

GF221140 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received this morning Executive Director of the Voice and Vision Brother Larijani and various section officials of the organization.

KHAMENE'I MEETS DIRECTORS, CLERGY IN SANANDAJ

LD221954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Mr Khamene'i, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, yesterday took part in a meeting of clergymen and directors general of departments held at the huge Islamic center in the west in Sanandaj. He made a speech in which he said: As long as our unity is preserved, the world-devouring imperialists will not be able to inflict any harm on the foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to a Central News Bureau dispatch, Mr Khamene'i last night also attended a meeting of members of revolutionary organs in Sanandaj's construction crusade.

After conducting congregational prayers, he addressed the members of the revolutionary institutions, and said: The Muslim Kurdish people should know that these people who have come to this region from all over the country and, together with the Muslim Kurdish people, are engaged in building, developing and safeguarding the security and welfare of the region, are the selfsame people who during the shah's regime were beaten up, tortured and suffered the rigors of prison for struggling to achieve the rights of this very same Kurdish people and of the peoples in other parts of the country. Today, too, they are pursuing the very same goal. At that time they were combatting the Pahlavi regime; today they are fighting its acolytes.

This morning, Mr Khamene'i attending a meeting of the personnel of the Sanandaj garrison which was held in the Hoseyniyeh mosque to honor the memory of the epic-makers and martyrs of the clashes in Kordestan last year. After the ceremonies exalting the martyrs at Sanandaj garrison, he attended a meeting of the Sanandaj police and traffic police at the police lecture theater.

TRANSPORTATION DELEGATION LEAVES FOR USSR

LD221142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, an Iranian delegation, headed by the deputy minister of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, together with the director of ports and shipping organizations, left for Moscow to attend the 12th conference on shipping, loading and unloading of goods in the northern ports of Iran. The delegation left for the Soviet Union today.

TRADE COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH TURKEY

GF221402 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] An Iranian-Turkish trade protocol was signed today by the trade ministers of both countries--Mr Kemal Canturk for the Turkish side and Brother Kazempur Ardabili for the Iranian side.

In the protocol the Turkish Government has expressed its readiness to supply Iran's needs in wheat, meat and barley. In the field of industry, the two sides have decided to eltablish close cooperation in order to implement joint industrial projects. It has also been decided to study the possibility of establishing a joint company to transport goods between the two countries.

According to this protocol, Iran will be allowed to transport 1 million tons of goods per year via Turkish railways. Some decisions have been made in the field of telephone and telex communications, and the two sides have agreed to strengthen joint cooperation in this field.

AFP: MORE ON 22 APR BOMBING, DEMONSTRATIONS

NC221608 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Tehran, 22 Apr (AFP)--Two persons were killed and at least 11 wounded when a bomb explored in Tehran today, according to the first official estimate. The casualties included two women and two children.

The bomb was placed in an empty minibus near the former Niavaran Imperial Palace. No group has so far claimed responsiblity for the incident.

The most recent previous reported bomb incident in Iran was earlier this month, when 40 persons were wounded while on their way to prayers at the great mosque at the holy city of Qom.

Meanwhile, Tehran revolutionary guards announced they had smashed a bombers' network and arrested its "counter-revolutionary" members.

The daily ETTELA'AT, quoting a communique from the revolutionary guards, said the gang had set off bombs in a large Tehran hotel, located behind the home of Ayatollah Khomeyni, and on a main street in an embassy area of the city.

The first anniversary of the closure of Iran's universities, officially considered "hotbeds of agitation," was marked here on Monday evening by incidents in which two persons died. Today the daily KEYHAN reported that in Armoli, near the Caspian Sea, about 40 persons were injured yesterday and some 20 arrested during six hours of clashes between Islamic leftists and security forces.

The daily ISLAMIC REPUBLIC also reported attacks and looting that it said were directed by "People's Mojahedin" (Islamic leftists) against the offices of the Islamic Republican Party, which is close to the religious fundamentalists, in Hamadan, Esfahan and Mashhad.

A number of pro-government newspapers also reported casualties in Shiraz, Katalem, Qazvin and elsewhere during clashes provoked by "left-wing American groups," "divisive elements," and other "counter-revolutionaries."

"There will be a strong riposte" if "reactionary and fascist" actions like those of Monday evening at the University of Tehran are repeated, according to an announcement issued here by the special court set up in Tehran to judge crimes committed in time of war.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 476, 477

476: 21 Apr Battles

LD221944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Communique 476 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The operational report on the situations on the fronts in the war between the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the mercenaries of the Iraqi Army on 21 April is hereby announced for the information of the public:

1. West of Ahvaz: A fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while carrying out an air patrol mission, engaged two Iraqi MiG's in a dogfight. One aggressor aircraft was shot down and destroyed by rocket fire while the other aircraft fled from the scene. Our own fighter aircraft, after concluding its mission, returned and landed safely at its base. In the Ahvaz region, thanks to our forces' artillery fire, 1 tank and 1 ammunition dump belonging to the aggressor servicemen of the enemy were destroyed and at least 100 enemy servicemen were either killed or wounded. In the Shemriyeh region in Ahvaz, our combatant patrols, dispatched toward enemy positions, killed 15 mercenaries.

2. On the Abadan and Khuninshahr front: Thanks to fire inflicted by our combatant units on the positions of the Iraqi aggressors, 6 trenches, 4 foxholes, 3 ammunition tents, 1 observation bunker, 1 mortar emplacement and 1 heavy machinegun emplacement were destroyed and 50 mercenaries were either killed or wounded. On the Abadan front, a loader was destroyed, 2 enemy servicemen were killed and 12 were wounded. During the same operations, 1 enemy loader and two 106-mm rifles were damaged. On the same day, the combatants of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran subjected enemy positions in the occupied sector of Khuninshahr to artillery and mortar fire. As a result, one enemy vehicle, one ammunition dump and one concrete bunker of the Iraqi servicemen were destroyed and the servicemen inside were either killed or wounded. During these operations, several buildings housing enemy troops were set ablaze.

3. Two groups from units of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Farsiat region infiltrated enemy positions and, with artillery support, attacked the Iraqi forces. As a result, an enemy personnel carrier, a truck carrying 20 enemy servicemen, a command jeep with 2 servicemen, an assembly center, a heavy machinegun emplacement, together with its crew, and a mortar of Saddam's army were destroyed, while one of their tanks was damaged. On the same front, thanks to fire by our combatants, 15 Iraqi servicemen were either killed or wounded.

4. In the Susangerd region: Thanks to artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one enemy tank was destroyed and eight of Saddam's servicemen were either killed or wounded.

5. In the Dezful region: The heroic patrols of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran captured four enemy personnel.

6. As a result of artillery and mortar fire by Saddam's army at the residential districts in Abadan and Gilan-e Gharb, losses and casualties were inflicted on the populations of these cities.

7. In the Chaghalvand region: Our tireless heroes, opening fire on enemy positions, destroyed a vehicle and 5 foxholes of the aggressive Iraqi Army and killed 5 and wounded 10 of Saddam's soldiers. On the same day, an aggressor Iraqi aircraft, which violated the airspace of the said region, was forced to flee by our ground-to-air defensive fire.

8. The gendarmerie fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran, deployed in the Ilam region, opened up artillery fire, hitting an Iraqi post and setting ablaze two enemy ammunition dumps, which exploded.

9. In the Marivan region: Our heroes destroyed an enemy ammunition tent and two Zil vehicles of the aggressors and either killed or wounded a number of enemy personnel.

10. On 20 April, on the country's southern and western fronts: Seventeen combatants of the ground forces and one war combatant of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred. On the same day a number of our military brothers were wounded.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

477: Successes on Western Front

LD221804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1718 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Communique 477 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. If they have waged war against you, then kill them as this is the punishment of the infidels.

The devotees of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the popular forces carried out a successful operation today, 22 April 1981. Once again they exhibited their combat ability and taught a bitter lesson to the Saddamist aggressors. The faithful and self-sacrificing combatants of Islam, consisting of the personnel of the Ground and Air Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the gendarmerie, the revolution guards corps, brave tribesmen, personnel of the mobilization and reconstruction crusade, the devotees of Imam Khomeyni, volunteer forces and the popular forces carried out coordinated and extensive operations today on one of the country's western fronts, dealing effective and fatal blows, and destroyed the forces of mercenary Saddam in this region.

In today's victory, our brave forces managed to kill at least 300 of the personnel of the army of blasphemy and capture a large number, 237 of whom have already been evacuated from the front. In these operations, a huge amount of booty was captured from the enemy by the army of Islam. The details of today's operations will be brought to the attention of the Muslim and combative nation of Iran in our next communique.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

TEHRAN REPORTS 22 APR MILITARY SUCCESSES

LD231204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Following a series of 24-hour operations and after a fast, decisive and effective attack, the (Bazi Deraz) heights and its highest peak were captured by the combative forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, tribal mobilization forces and other forces of Islam.

During these operations, which began at 0500 yesterday with a attack by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the brave tribesmen and the forces of the mobilization of the oppressed, with the backing of the Airborne Division and artillery unit of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, three summits in important heights in the region were captured by the combatants of Islam.

During this attack by our armed forces, the frightened enemy used all its power in the air and on the ground; but it was disappointed, thanks to the decisive operations of the soldiers of Islam.

As of 2100 last night, the number of Iraqi prisoners of war was 386; a large number of them have surrendered, and arrangements are being made to transfer them. At least 350 enemy personnel have been killed. According to the latest PARS reports, as of 2200 last night we had 7 martyrs and 41 injured.

The commander of the helicopter operations of the Airborne Division in Zahab gave an interview in which he said: During a series of rapid operations we destroyed 5 personnel carriers, 4 ammunition tents and 10 squad trenches belonging to the enemy and killed 100 of Saddam's soldiers. He added: In later operations another 250 enemy personnel were killed. We destroyed 10 ammunition tents, 10 squad trenches and a large number of animals which the enemy was using to carry ammunition. On several occasions when the enemy was trying to wage a counterattack, we forced it to retreat. Our pressure was so intense that the enemy flew three of its planes over the battle zones and carried out some operations, but it was disappointed; our helicopters returned to their base safely. One of our helicopters developed a technical fault, but fortunately its servicemen were saved. He said: These were our most coordinated operations. Army personnel from the Airborne Division, revolution guards, mobilization forces and the peshmerga were actively involved.

A group of engineers from the Kermanshah unit discovered an enemy minefield on the (Bazi Deraz) heights and defused 1,200 antipersonnel and antitank mines planted by Saddam's mercenaries.

The enemy left behind a large number of weapons and ammunition when it retreated or surrendered; these were seized by the combative forces of Islam. The exact amount of war booty taken has not yet been announced.

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS ON OPERATIONS AGAINST IRAQIS

LD222244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Summary] According to PARS, the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has reported in a communique the operations carried out on various fronts, as follows:

On the western fronts:

1. Following on offensive launched by the Iraqis and counterrevolutionaries on a height in the Marivan border strip, the corpsmen and military men counterattacked and killed 90 Iraqi troops and wounded 30 others; the enemy fled the battlefront.

2. On the Ilam border strip, in a series of attacks by revolution guards and the gendarmerie, one of the heights in the Shur-e Shirin region was cleared of Iraqis and brought completely under the control of Iranian forces. Our artillery fire inflicted numerous losses and casualties on Iraqis in the region of Konjancham.

3. In the Gilan-e Gharb region, the revolution guards destroyed two enemy trenches in [name indistinct] and Zeleh Zard; a large number of enemy servicemen were also killed. In the region of Quch Soltan five enemy trenches were destroyed and a number of enemy troops, who were escaping, were killed.

On the southern fronts:

1. The revolution guards' mortar unit opened fire at the Mahshahr-Abadan junction and destroyed one ammunition dump and one heavy weapon belonging to the enemy.

2. In the region of Feyaziyeh in Abadan on enemy fuel tanker was destroyed and 10 Iraqis were killed.

TWO VILLAGES LIBERATED FROM 'MERCENARIES'

LD221112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Following the liberation of Keymaneh village from the hands of armed mercenaries and counterrevolutionaries, we received another report today concerning the liberation of (Bidarvaz) village, in the same area, from the hands of armed ruffians and counterrevolutionaries.

According to PARS, the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the governor of Owraman have confirmed this report and added that the two villages have a sensitive location and their liberation by the defenders of the Islamic revolution has caused happiness among the Kurdish brothers and sisters in the area.

IRAQI ESPIONAGE NETWORK DISCOVERED IN MAHSHAHR

GF221431 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Communique issued by the Mahshahr Islamic Revolution Court--no date given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Since the day that the criminal Iraqi Ba'thist regime started the war that has been imposed on our Islamic revolution, fifth column elements and Saddam's internal collaborators have been preparing the way for terrorism, unrest and bomb explosions in our country.

They have committed the greatest crime against the revolution and our innocent nation.

We are hereby announcing to our revolutionary and esteemed compatriots that one of the Iraqi fifth column's espionage networks has been discovered by selfless brother Mahshahr revolution guards. A large number of persons have been arrested in connection with this.

VOICE OF IRAN ON TUDEH COOPERATION WITH KHOMEYNI

NC221737 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] According to a report by a Voice of Iran correspondent, over the past 3 months in order to help the Tehran regime the Tudeh Party placed information its members had acquired from workers' organizations in Iran at the disposal of SAVAMA. Mehdi Chamran, the representative of Ayatollah Khomeyni's security organization, in a verbal message to officials of the party, stated that agreement on the continuation of the political life of the Tudeh Party of Iran depends on its regular cooperation in the field of information with the Tehran regime.

The strike by employees of the Tehran bus union is among the cases information gathered by Tudeh Party members was placed at the Tehran regime's disposal before the strike commenced. This information led to the arrest, imprisonment and torture of a large number of workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company.

This cooperation between Tudeh Party members and the Tehran regime also extends beyond Iran's borders.

KURDISH COMMANDER CALLS FOR EVACUATION OF SONDOS

JN221530 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish 1230 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Dear listeners: In view of the continued shelling of the villages near Mahabad, the commander of the advanced forces of the Iranian Kurdish Democratic Party has addressed an appeal to the honest citizens of Sondos and Naqadeh. We transmit this appeal to our dear listeners, particularly to the citizens who are living in Sondos.

The appeal says: For more than 1 week, the guards stationed in Naqadeh and Urumiyeh have been shelling the villages in the vicinity of Mahabad from the Kuseh Kahrizeh hills, since they are unable to confront the peshmerga. As a result of this shelling, work has come to a standstill, many houses have been destroyed and many persons have been displaced.

We, the peshmerga of the advanced forces, announce that if the shelling of the city's quarters is not halted, we shall be compelled to reply in self-defense and to shell the villages in the area of Sondos, where the guards have their headquarters. We call on the citizens of Sondos to raise their voices in protest against this shelling and to evacuate their villages in order to avoid being exposed to the operations of the peshmerga of the advanced forces.

SRI LANKA

AFP REPORTS CONCLUSION OF SOUTH ASIAN CONFERENCE

BK230956 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Colombo, 23 Apr (AFP)--Foreign secretaries of seven South Asian countries ended a three-day meeting here today launching a process for regional co-operation.

The meeting, attended by the foreign secretaries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, agreed as an initial step to set up five study groups to determine the potential and scope for regional co-operation in five fields. The fields are agriculture, rural development, telecommunications, meteorology and health and population activities. Each of these groups will have a co-ordinator country--Bangladesh for agriculture, Sri Lanka for rural development, Pakistan for telecommunications, India for meteorology and Nepal for health and population activities.

The groups will conduct in-depth studies and make concrete recommendations to the next meeting of foreign secretaries to be held in Katmandu, Nepal, within six months.

The foreign secretaries agreed to examine at their next meeting whether the stage had been reached to recommend the convening of a meeting at foreign ministers level. They considered the institutional arrangements for regional co-operation set out in a working paper submitted by Bangladesh and agreed that the matter needed further examination. The foreign secretaries also agreed to set up a committee comprising senior officials of the seven countries with Sri Lanka as co-ordinator to identify and report on other areas of possible co-operation for consideration at their meeting in Katmandu.

A joint communique issued at the end of the meeting said the foreign secretaries noted that this was the first occasion on which they were meeting together in a South Asian regional context. The communique said they stressed the historic significance and importance of the meeting which was a manifestation of the will of the seven countries to co-operate regionally. It was agreed that regional co-operation in South Asia is beneficial, desirable and necessary. They noted the need to proceed step by step on the basis of careful and adequate preparation for early realisation of such co-operation. They agreed that decisions should be taken on the basis of unanimity. They further agreed that bilateral and contentious issues should be excluded from their deliberations.

They agreed that regional co-operation should be based on and in turn contribute to mutual trust, understanding and sympathetic appreciation of the natural aspirations of the countries of the region. Such co-operation should also be based on respect for the principles of soveregn equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs of other states and mutual benefit, the communique said. They further agreed that regional co-operation was not intended or expected to be a substitute for bilateral and multilateral co-operation but could complement both: Nor should it be inconsistent with bilateral and multilateral obligations.

The foreign secretaries noted that the South Asian countries are co-operating with one another and with other developing countries in various international forums. They agreed that efforts should be made to strengthen this co-operation, particularly on matters of common interest.

The five study groups will review existing co-operative arrangements pertaining to the region. They will also determine the potential and the scope of regional co-operation and the overall benefits and costs of such co-operation to the countries of the region.

The study groups will also draw up a work programme incorporating ways and means of establishing and strengthening regional co-operation, specific projects in each area and arrangements for implementing and monitoring the work programme. The meeting was held following a proposal by Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman.